

Maryland State Board of Victim Services
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Wednesday, July 22, 2020
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Anne Bean
Anne Colt Leitess, Esq.
V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Carol Callaway for Jeanne Yeager
Jessica Dickerson for Secretary Sam Abed
Lou Gieszl
Theresa Hiegel
Sheriff Gary Hofmann
Steve Levin, Esq.
Adam Lippe, Esq.
Molly Knipe
Alonzo Robertson, Esq.
Lisa Smith, Esq.
Patricia Stevens for Secretary Robert Green
Lisa Spicknall

Guests:

Lisae Jordan, Esq., Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Jennifer Pollitt-Hill, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention Youth, and Victim Services Staff:

Mary Abraham
Rebecca Allyn
Heather Amador
David Blum
Barbara Darley
Kimberly Herndon
Erica Hiner
Robyne McCullough
Justice Schisler

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Updates

Mr. Fueston shared that the Office's strategy for the third year continuation Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) awards for FY 21, beginning 10/1/20, is to allow current VOCA sub-recipients to receive funding in the amount of their FY 20 VOCA personnel line items, including fringe benefits and contractual positions, plus an additional 10 percent. This strategy will leave approximately \$5 million in "savings." In order to obtain feedback from providers on how to

utilize the unallocated VOCA funds, the Office held four listening sessions. A VOCA chart was shared with sub-recipients and victim service providers to assist providers' recommendations for the unallocated VOCA funds. The chart outlined VOCA spending and savings from federal fiscal year 2010 to 2020, including projections. The options the Office is currently considering are to utilize the funds to offset future reductions in order to maintain consistency and continuity of crime victim services in Maryland, or to release the funds competitively to all victim service providers in Maryland, including those who have not had the opportunity to access VOCA funding through the VOCA Notice of Funding Availability since 2018.

The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators hosted an Education and Advocacy Webinar which provided an overview of opportunities for states to engage their Congressional partners in messaging to support the Crime Victims Fund. The webinar can be found at <https://navaa.org/resources/voca-resources/>.

Ms. Schisler informed members that the VOCA white paper for the third year continuation funding will be posted within the week, and that the Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act Regional Navigator Program is accepting grant applications through August 20. .

III. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda contained the January 2020 Board meeting minutes and the Governor's Family Violence Council updates. Ms. Spicknall made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Mr. Gieszl seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

IV. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Discussion

Ms. Allyn asked if members had any thoughts about the options for the unallocated VOCA funds. Ms. Bean shared that if the VOCA funds do not decrease next year, the Office may want to consider keeping funding level, if possible, and holding on to the \$5 million for savings.

V. Board Updates

- The Annual Crime Victims' Rights Conference and the Annual Memorial Services for Crime Victims will not be held in 2020.
- The Governor's Victim Assistance Awards will be presented virtually in October. The award recipients are:
 - ❖ Virginia Mahoney Award - Corneilius Scott, Family Survivor Network
 - ❖ Henry Gleim Memorial Award - Maryland Chesapeake Bay Region Bikers Against Child Abuse
 - ❖ Vincent Roper Memorial Award - Roberta's House Homicide Survivor Advocacy Program
- The Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Workgroup (AAIWG) last met in February and their next meeting is this month. Ms. Allyn attends the AAIWG meetings on behalf of the Board. If there are any tasks of the AAWIG that the Victim Response to Mass Violence Subcommittee can contribute to, Ms. Allyn will convene a Subcommittee meeting.

VI. Old/New Business

Members began to discuss the goals of the Board for the upcoming year. Ms. Knipe asked if members could review last year's strategic plan and determine if the Board needs to revise the plan or update the Board's goals. Ms. Allyn will re-share the strategic plan with members following the meeting.

Ms. Allyn announced that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has called upon the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to review and make any suggestions to the scripting for VINE (Victim Information Notification Everyday) notifications. Ms. Allyn informed Board members to contact her if they would like to assist with reviewing.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Knipe made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Dickerson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:42 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/wqj-rmpy-jyp

Phone Number: 1-916-750-0904

PIN: 495 108 844#